(b) The Government has implemented several schemes enabling land conservation. Under the National Project for Management of Soil Health and Fertility there is provision for setting of Soil Testing Laboratories to promote balanced use of fertilizers. The Government is also promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for control of pests with judicious use of pesticides.

(c) to (e) The Government regulates the quality of fertilizers through Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 which prohibits the manufacture, import, storage and sale of non-standard fertilizers. The fertilizers which meet the prescribed standards are allowed for manufacture, import and sale. Similarly, quality control of pesticides is administered under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 *inter alia* through regular sampling of pesticides from manufacturing units as well as pesticide dealers.

Rich yield of fruits

151. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is likely to get a rich exportable fruit yield this year, including pineapple, apple, mangoes and oranges;

(b) if so, the expected yield this year compared to last three years; and

(c) the quantity of fruit and fruit products expected to be exported this year as compared to last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The available data on production of various fruits for the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08 and that for the year 2008-09 indicates that there has been consistent increase in overall production of fruits. The details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) The export of fresh fruits and Vegetables and processed fruits and vegetables during the last three years is as under :

Quantity : Mts Value : Rs lakhs

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09*	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
Fruits	347660	87188	365732	91185	394484	91606
Processed Fruits & Vegetables	474903	146134	478509	147250	513187	193551
TOTAL :	822563	233322	844241	238435	907671	285157

*April 2008 to Feb 2009

Source : DGCIS

Statement

Year-wise detail of production of fruits

(Production (in '000' MT)

Name of Fruit	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (3rd Advance)
Pineapple	1353	1362	1247	1354
Apple	1756	1624	2001	1985
Mango	12538	13734	13997	12831
Citrus	6326	7145	8038	8528
Guava	1823	1831	1981	2330
Papaya	2317	2482	2904	3641
Pomegranate	849	840	884	856
Sapota	1117	1216	1258	1309
Banana	18702	20998	23861	27119
Litchi	381	403	418	433
Grapes	1631	1685	1733	1764
Others	9947	6244	7280	7303
TOTAL :	58740	59564	65602	69453

Source : National Horticulture Board

Organic paddy cultivation in Palakkad district

152. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some farmers from Vadakkencherry in Palakkad district of Kerala had switched over to organic paddy cultivation two years ago with support from local Panchayat and State Agriculture Department and were depending upon export of their produce to remain sustainable;

(b) if so, the details of this experiment and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is also aware that these farmers find it difficult to sell their produce in the domestic market since their cost price is more than ordinary paddy; and

(d) if so, whether Government will consider to lift ban on organic rice export imposed in 2007 to encourage organic farming?